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As he his peer had been:
But his gaunt frame was worn with toil,
His cheek was sunk, *alas the while!*
And when he struggled at a smile,
His eye look'd haggard wild.

With this conductor Marmion leaves the castle, and, after a recital of the ceremonies attending his departure, particularized in a manner that would have done honour to Scudery himself, the canto closes.

(To be concluded in our next.)

A short and Easy Method with the Deists, wherein the certainty of the Christian Religion is demonstrated, by infallible proof, from four Rules, which are incompatible to any imposture that ever has been, or that can possibly be; in a letter to a friend. By the Rev. Charles Leslie, 8vo. p. p. 44. Reprinted by D. Anderson, Belfast, 1808.

THE reprinting of works of merit must afford great pleasure to every true friend of learning, and should always be encouraged. We are happy in finding that the author whose compositions once gratified us, is again introduced to our notice. It is like meeting an old friend with a new face. We renew our enjoyment by the perusal of pages, which ensure the certainty of improvement. Like the revisiting of scenes in which we once delighted, we feel the double pleasure of reviving the recollections of the past, and enjoying in others the repetition of that admiration which we ourselves once experienced when the view first presented itself to our eye gilded with all the charms of novelty.

The short treatise before us is the production of a once celebrated divine; and of itself would tend, as far as so short an essay could, to prove the merit of the writer. It is a concise and clear argument in favour of the truth of Christianity, given, as is intimated, at the instance of a friend, who wished, without being led into a labyrinth of controversies, to have one single proof to oppose the attacks of its adversaries. This the writer does in a masterly manner. He establishes the truth of the matters of fact relative to our Saviour, by four rules which can never unite in an imposture; and thence naturally deduces the truth of the doctrines. But though we think his method good, and his arguments strong, we are not inclined to think that this or any such treatise can answer the purpose for which it was written. "For though," to use his own words, "every truth is one, and therefore one reason for it, if it be the true reason must be sufficient, yet our sight is so feeble, that we cannot always come to it directly, but by many inferences, and laying of things together." These inferences and deductions are each a separate argument, to be handled by itself, which must inevitably lead the inquirer into that variety of discussion which it was his wish to avoid by the discovery of one single proof.

To this one reason he subjoins some additional collateral proofs, and from them draws several conclusions, some of which we would be inclined to scrutinize, did not our plan prevent us from entering upon any thing which savours of controversy.

In a word, though this tract cannot supersede the necessity of larger treatises to those who wish to be thoroughly acquainted with the proofs of Christianity, it may serve as a useful guide to beginners to direct the train of their studies, and will give satisfaction to the minds of such as are not inclined to dive more deeply into this subject.

The Twelve, a Poem, in three Cantos. Dublin, Printed by Thomas Burnside, 1808. p. p. 55. Price, 2s. 6d.

THIS is a satyrical poem on our Irish Judges. Three or four are praised, the others are in different degrees censured. Of the applicableness of the praise or the censure, we acknowledge ourselves, from our provincial situation, and our defective acquaintance with forensic pursuits, disqualified from judging. We take up the poem as a literary work, and, in this point of view, we venture to offer some remarks. We regret the present state of the printing art in Dublin; it is low indeed. They labour under some disadvantages, but they too readily sink under discouragements, and find an excuse for their want of exertion, in a complaint of the evils of the Union.

This whining complaint is heard every where in Dublin. Like the countryman whose cart stuck fast in the mud, and who complained of the badness of the roads, and vainly called on Hercules for help, they content themselves with declaiming against the Union, and neglect those habits of individual exertion, by which only their situation can be bettered. Let them print better—let them make the printing trade respectable—and energy

will always, to a certain degree, produce success.

We have something to say to the author: we believe he possesses talents, but he is deficient in simplicity, that amiable grace in writing. We would endeavour to form an excuse for him, on the supposition, that he probably is a youthful writer; but we are less confident in this supposition, because we have observed, with much pain, that it is a general failing, into which our Irish writers are too often apt to fall. They affect too much ornament, and are not sufficiently refined to adopt an easy perspicuous style. A profusion of ornament, and an attempt at finery, often mislead to substitute tinsel for the sterling gold. We wish not to offend, but in the beginning of our critical career, we are desirous to enter our protest against a false showy taste. The best English writers within the last forty years especially, furnish us with many models of correct taste, which are recommended to the imitation of our Irish authors.

The preface to this little book is in a very turgid style, and obscurity appears to be the leading character of the work. We meet with such words as dispension, ignomes, tantaline; expressions, which an acquaintance with the English language does not justify. Great abilities are necessary to confer the privilege of coining words. If every writer were at liberty to use new-invented words, the English language would soon be reduced to an unintelligible jargon, and every author must add his own glossary to his book.

We notice the epithet, "vengeful," twice applied to justice; we do not like the term. Vengeance is not a godlike attribute, nor ought it to be admitted into a system of human jurisprudence. To punish for the purpose of producing reform, can be the only legitimate end of punishment; but a contrary sentiment has produced innumerable evils in legislation, and introduced a severity of punishment which has completely defeated its avowed purpose.

Our criminal laws are sanguinary in the letter, and lax in the execution. A principle of humanity arises in the breasts of judges, jurors, and prosecutors, which inclines them rather to let the offender escape, than inflict the punishment of death, a punishment disproportioned to the offence. That the judge should be counsel for the prisoner, can only be tolerated as a mitigation of inordinate severity. If punishments were proportioned to the offences, the judge should hold an even balance between the prisoner and the prosecutor. Certainty should take place of severity of punishment. On the trial of a woman, we once saw a judge act on the maxim of being counsel for the prisoner, and brow-beat the evidence for the prosecution. The woman was, notwithstanding, found guilty, and the prosecutor, who did not wish to have her hanged, petitioned to have the sentence changed to transportation, which was afterwards done; and to this the judge, consented, though he declared he had no doubt of her guilt; yet but a few minutes before, this same judge had been exerting himself to procure a verdict of acquittal. To prevent the commission of crimes, the criminal law should be mitigated. We most heartily wish success to Sir Samuel Romily's beginnings in this good work, which he introduced into parliament last session, as the commencement of a general plan, in his bill to render private stealing from the person not a capital offence: and we earnestly desire, that no imbecile dread of innovation, the epidemical insanity of the present day, may prevent the success of a reform, which is called for, not only on the principles of philanthropy, but of sound policy.

We cannot avoid noticing several flagrant violations of measure and grammar.

"'Twas he who told each struggling to stay"...

"That thou with ruthless hand *inflicts* the blow,"

"For *e'er* to wisdom's voice will ope the ear."

"As primer'd boys resort *(to)* their daily School."

"We scarce one *lin'ment* of thy mother trace.

To conclude, we think it somewhat strange, that in a city dignified by the only university in the kingdom, no person could be found to direct the printer to the proper form of arranging a quotation from Juvenal in the title page.

K.

The Post Captain; or, the Wooden Walls well manned; comprehending a view of Naval society and manners; by the Author of "Edward; a view of Society in France," &c. 3d edition, corrected. pp. 232. 7s. London, 1808.

TO notice this work may be thought superfluous; perhaps presumptuous. Supported by the name of the author, sanctioned by the approbation of the pub-